

Amendments to the Abstract

Please add the following abstract.

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to Ab2-type anti-idiotypic antibodies and fragments thereof which mimic HVI-1 epitopes that are otherwise cryptic to the immune system and which antibodies or fragments thereof are directed against potently neutralizing anti-HIV-1 antibodies. The invention further relates to a hybridoma cell line 3H6 expressing the anti-idiotypic antibody and to pharmaceutical compositions containing the antibody or fragment thereof. The invention also relates to HIV-1 neutralizing Ab3-type antibodies elicited upon administration of the Ab2-type anti-idiotypic antibody or fragment thereof and to pharmaceutical compositions containing them. The invention also relates to the use of the present antibodies or fragments thereof as screening tools or as diagnostic or therapeutic agents.